



U N I V E R S I T Y O F
SOUTH CAROLINA
B E A U F O R T

**Program Planning Summary
For New Program**

University of South Carolina Beaufort

**Title of Program: Bachelor of Arts
Major: Elementary Education**

July 2011

Dr. Harris Pastides, President

Date

Program Planning Summary

University of South Carolina Beaufort (USC Beaufort)

Bachelor of Arts

Major: Elementary Education

CIP CODE: 13.1202

Program Designation

This is a *New Program Proposal* for a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Elementary Education degree at USC Beaufort. The degree will require a minimum of 120 credit hours including approximately 55 general education hours and 65 hours of coursework in the elementary education major.

Designation of Undergraduate Program: Four-year program

Qualifies for supplemental Palmetto Fellows Scholarship and LIFE Scholarship awards: No

Proposed Date of Implementation: Spring 2013

Justification of Need for the Proposed Program

The state of South Carolina and the nation have documented teacher shortages. Combined with rapid population growth and development in the lowcountry, and the rural/poor standing of public schools, this shortage is compounded in USC Beaufort's service area that consists of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton I and II, and Jasper counties. School district administrators in the USC Beaufort four-county service area have indicated that they will continue to face a teacher shortage resulting from impending teacher retirements over the next five to ten years combined with a shrinking pool of education graduates willing to work in some of the poorer, more rural school districts in South Carolina. Attracting well-qualified teachers into rural areas is a matter of great concern, and school officials in the local school districts have gone overseas to recruit teachers to work in these districts due to a lack of a qualified applicant pool. Contributing to that teacher shortage is the termination of the USC Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Program in Elementary Education on the USC Beaufort campus in April 2011. For more than 15 years, the MAT program has supplied a steady pool of approximately 20-25 well qualified teachers annually, to the school districts in Beaufort, Hampton I and II, and Jasper counties.

Currently, USC Beaufort only offers an Early Childhood Education (ECE) degree which prepares individuals to teach in Pre-K through grade three. There are no elementary education teacher preparation programs in South Carolina within a reasonable commuting distance from the USC Beaufort service area that residents can attend to earn this degree. Discussions with both Beaufort and Jasper County school district officials over the years have focused on a "grow your own" pool of teachers. This degree will make USC Beaufort more attractive for local students wanting to earn a teaching degree and who have a desire to work in their home base.

Moreover, an elementary education degree that certifies teachers from grade two through six is more appealing to males who want to enter the teaching profession. Although our *Call Me Mister* program is off to a successful start with eight *Misters*, the need continues to be expressed for an elementary level program. Students already in the Early Childhood Education program have been vocal about the lack of a teacher preparation program at a higher certification level.

According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) 2011-017 March 2011 report entitled "Projections of Education Statistics to 2019", "Between fall 2007, the last year of actual public school data, and fall 2019, the number of teachers in elementary and secondary schools is projected to rise. The pupil/teacher ratios are projected to decrease in both public and private

schools. The annual number of new teacher hires is projected to increase in both public and private schools. Total public and private elementary and secondary school enrollment reached 55 million in fall 2007, representing a 10 percent increase since fall 1994. Between fall 2007 and fall 2019, a further increase of 6 percent is expected, with increases projected in both public schools and in private schools. Increases in public school enrollment are expected for Hispanics, Asians/Pacific Islanders, and American Indians/Alaska Natives, and decreases are expected for Whites and Blacks. Increases in public school enrollment are expected in the South and West, and decreases are expected in the Northeast and the Midwest. A historic turnover in the teaching profession is on the way. More than a million veteran teachers are nearing retirement. America will need two million new teachers in the next decade, and experts predict that half the teachers who will be in public school classrooms 10 years from now have not yet been hired. Additionally, on a local level, according to the Beaufort County School District's Director of Human Resources, last year (2010-2011) BCSD hired 199 new teachers across grades K-12, with 51 being elementary classroom teachers for grades 2-5, and at least another 10-15 for sixth grade.

Compelling regional factors that contribute to this need include the following:

(1) Colleton, Jasper and Hampton counties are three of the poorest counties in the state and poverty rates throughout the region are disproportionately high. These are the hardest hit areas for teacher shortages; in particular, this area of the state has been referred to as the *Corridor of Shame*. (2) Beaufort County is the fastest growing county in the state, with a burgeoning population increase of nearly 40% from 1990 (pop. 86,425) to 2000 (pop. 120,937), and another 39.5% from 2000 to 2010. Additionally, Jasper County's population increased by 33.5% (15,137 to 20,678) during this decade—both counties more than doubling the state rate of 15.1%. Projections show a slower, but continual growth pattern for the region. In Beaufort County alone, the most conservative projections anticipate the population increasing by a minimum of another 40% over the next 25 years. Sources from labor market indicators reflect varying growth projections, though all show a steady increase as indicated in the following chart.

Beaufort County Population Growth and Projections

Source	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
1. LMI	120,937	137,800 (13.9% over 2000)	152,000 (25.6% over 2000)	166,190 (37.4% over 2000)	180,390 (49.1% over 2000)	194,570 (60.8% over 2000)

Cited Sources: Lowcountry Economic Network, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, and S.C. Office of Research and Statistical Services.

(3) Beaufort County School District has experienced a 3.1% increase (616 students) over the past five years, and both Beaufort and Jasper County schools have had aggressive building programs over the past few years. Both districts have reported difficulty in recruiting and retaining teachers; and (4) Contributing to a recurring high turnover rate, 18% of Beaufort County teachers are members of military families, with an average military tour of 3 years.

Even more significant is the fact that the population age sector analysis from the 2000 U.S Census Bureau data shows that Beaufort County's 10-14 years of age group grew by a staggering 47.7%, substantially higher growth than any other county in South Carolina. These young people will be the next wave of enrollees in USC Beaufort. They will be seeking educational programs that meet their expectations for viable careers and long- term quality of life potential. Combining this with labor market projections detailed below, USC Beaufort's program in Elementary Education will be a viable avenue available to them.

USC Beaufort's service area is steadily growing and consequently there will be more undergraduate students seeking a wide range of degree options. This program is needed at USC Beaufort in order to foster state initiatives in the lowcountry region, where baccalaureate educational needs have been underserved and where teacher quality needs are high. When an elementary education degree program is locally based and offered at USC Beaufort, access will increase and demand will grow. An elementary education degree will allow USC Beaufort to better meet the needs of our students and our community at large by helping to address the teacher shortage in our region.

Anticipated Program Demand and Productivity

The B.A. with a major in Elementary Education is one of the most critical, based on student interest and career opportunities, workforce needs, and advancement of education in the region. Based on data from the Occupational Supply Demand System (OSDS) website, which collects data on degree completers and labor statistics, the demand for occupations in elementary education (CIP code 13.1202) is expected to grow nationally by 15.8% from 2008-2018. Within South Carolina, the growth is expected to be 19.2%. The average number of annual openings in SC for occupations within elementary education is 919. Nationally, the average annual number of openings is 59,650.

There is anticipated high demand for the program based on general student interest expressed at new student orientations at USC Beaufort. Between fall 2004 and summer 2010, USC Beaufort has graduated 113 early childhood education majors, many of whom are presently working in the local school districts in USC Beaufort's four-county service area. However, a good portion of those students indicated that they would have preferred a degree in Elementary Education. For example, 37.5% of the current early childhood education majors surveyed stated a preference for an undergraduate degree in elementary education, with all male students preferring to teach above the ECE level. Unfortunately, there has been attrition to other colleges and universities because USC Beaufort does not offer a teacher preparation program at the elementary level. In fact, a significant number of early childhood education majors at USC Beaufort are currently taking courses online or at other institutions so they can take the Praxis exam and add on a certification in elementary education.

Extent to Which the Proposed Program Duplicates Existing Programs in the State

Although there are a number of baccalaureate level elementary education degree programs in public and private colleges/universities within South Carolina, none are proximate to USC Beaufort's four-county service area. For students in this region desiring a baccalaureate degree in elementary education, a minimum three-hour daily commute would be necessary (to Charleston) and consequently would eliminate most students interested in this degree. Duplication of programs located in other parts of the state is warranted based on the great need for elementary teachers in the region because of substantial growth and occupational trends; South Carolina's continued commitment to reducing the statewide teacher shortage; the rural nature of much of the region with a compounded need for qualified teachers; and the student interest and demand for this program. The creation of this additional teacher preparation program in this underserved region of the state of South Carolina is both justified and needed. The curriculum outlined for this new program intentionally duplicates, in part, that of the University of South Carolina Columbia, building on the established pedagogical strengths of this senior institution's elementary education degree program.

Relationship of the Proposed Program to Existing Programs at the Proposing Institution

Because all programs at USC Beaufort will develop new foci under USC Beaufort's mission, relationships will continually evolve. Clearly the existing general education core requirements will expose students to faculty from all academic divisions and will build on the strengths of other programs of study. As the levels of scholarship, research, teaching, and service expand to meet the higher standards of a baccalaureate institution, new opportunities for intra-collegial relationships will develop. Strong relationships will be vital between the Elementary Education

program, the existing Early Childhood Education program, and the other degree programs at USC Beaufort. The Association of Education International (ACEI) is the accrediting agency for the preparation of Elementary teachers. The following statement is noted in their position paper: "Preservice elementary teachers must be generalists, with study and experiences in all areas of the curriculum. They should be prepared to organize and implement a variety of proven instructional strategies in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, health, physical education and the visual and performing arts." Additionally, similar to the Early Childhood Education program, a strong tie to the USC Beaufort Human Services' major will exist with the incorporation of a "service learning" component in the Elementary Education program.

Relationship of the Proposed Program to Other Institutions via Inter-Institutional

Cooperation USC Beaufort has a substantial record of partnering on collaborative initiatives in the education arena in the state, region, and world. With this new program, such initiatives will be strengthened and serve as a foundation for future cooperation. USC Beaufort faculty and staff have a long history of working collaboratively with teacher education programs throughout the state. For example, the Fall 2010 South Carolina Association of Teacher Education (SCATE) annual meeting was held on the USC Beaufort Hilton Head Gateway Campus. Additionally, Education faculty members have worked with accrediting organizations nationally by serving on various committees and maintaining sustained publication and presentation agendas. When USC Beaufort has its own elementary education program in place, articulation agreements and stronger relationships will be developed with the Technical College of the Lowcountry and other technical colleges in the state to ensure ease of transfer for students who wish to advance their education with a baccalaureate degree and teacher certification. On a regional level, this program will continue as a catalyst for improved teacher quality through partnerships with the local school districts. Personnel from both the Beaufort and Jasper County school districts serve on the USC Beaufort Teacher Education Advisory Council that meets twice a year. Both Beaufort and Jasper County School Districts Human Resources' managers have expressed strong support of USC Beaufort offering an Elementary Education program in order to meet the local teacher demands.

Total New Costs Associated with Implementing the Proposed Program (General Estimates)

New costs associated with this program will relate primarily to faculty, library collections, and accreditation. Total estimated new faculty costs are \$55,000 plus benefits (30%) per year or \$275,000 over the first five years. New library collection costs are estimated at \$10,000 over the first five years. Equipment and supplies will be minimal and will consist of approximately \$2,000 in new costs for a computer and supplies for a new faculty member. There will be no new facilities needs or costs. Accreditation costs are estimated at \$2,000 over the first five years. (Association of Childhood Education International (ACEI) + misc. travel, etc.)